

Direction générale du Centre de services scolaire de Laval
Direction de santé publique du Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de Laval

Saliva screening tests available to Laval residents and in Laval schools

Information for the public

Laval, December 8, 2020 – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de Laval and the Centre de services scolaire (CSS) de Laval is announcing the launch of a pilot project in schools, which will make saliva tests available in two primary schools and one secondary school. The initiative is made possible thanks to the cooperation and concerted efforts of the two Laval organizations. Laval is now the first region in Québec to offer saliva tests in schools in order to curb the spread of the virus.

Rapid distribution in schools

According to Dr. Jean-Pierre Trépanier, Director of Public Health at the CISSS de Laval, saliva testing provides many benefits for the Laval population, but even more so when they are distributed in schools: “Saliva tests have the advantage of being less invasive than traditional tests, since only a saliva sample is needed. Students can take the test at home and return it to a screening centre without having to wait or book an appointment. This means faster access to screening with the same level of quality and accuracy than the standard nasal swab test. In fact, most screening tests conducted in Laval now use this method.”

In addition, Yves Michel Volcy, Director General of the Centre de services scolaire de Laval, sees this pilot project as a great opportunity to participate in the fight against COVID-19 in schools. “As the holiday season approaches, we want to do more in terms of preventing the spread of the virus in our schools. Thankfully, with the cooperation of the CISSS de Laval, we are now able to offer certain groups of students the chance to do saliva tests at home. We hope this measure will increase screening in schools and limit the spread of COVID-19 in our establishments, but also in the community.”

Saliva testing available to the public

The CISSS de Laval has been offering COVID-19 saliva testing to the public since November 9, 2020. Following various validation stages in the lab, the CISSS de Laval management began implementing saliva tests on September 2, 2020 and continues to do so across its facilities in Laval (hospital, testing centres, CHSLDs and residential resources). With this pilot project, saliva testing is now being brought into to schools. The two organizations hope that all Laval schools will be able to have access to the tests in the coming weeks.

It should be noted that though saliva testing is now available, certain situations call for the use of swab testing – for instance with small children or people who produce little saliva.

Key advantages of saliva testing:

- Saliva tests are as reliable as oro-nasopharyngeal swabs for all indications, except in rare cases where symptoms began more than 7 days previously.
- The saliva test is more comfortable than the swab test.
- The technique does not require the mobilization of health care personnel (self-administered).
- It is fast and easy to explain the procedure to users of the test.
- Saliva testing is not dependent on the supply of swabs.

With the exception of children who have received a self-testing kit for a home-based saliva test, the CISSS de Laval is asking the public to book an appointment before going to a COVID-19 screening clinic in order to avoid long lineups outside.

For information on the location and schedule of screening clinics in Laval:

<http://www.lavalensante.com/en/covid19/screening-and-assessment/> : 1 877 644-4545 (Laval residents and workers).

About the CISSS de Laval

The CISSS de Laval is fully dedicated to learning, innovating and excelling in order to offer residents of Laval and surrounding areas a full range of integrated, quality health and social services accessible to all. Its human capital includes over 10,000 employees and doctors working in 32 facilities, including the Hôpital de la Cité- de-la-Santé, the Jewish Rehabilitation Hospital, the Centre de services ambulatoires de Laval, six CLSCs, five residential centres, the Centre de protection de l'enfance et de la jeunesse de Laval, the Centre de réadaptation en dépendance de Laval and the Centre de réadaptation en déficience intellectuelle et troubles envahissants du développement de Laval. The CISSS de Laval is a research and teaching facility affiliated to Université de Montréal and McGill University. For more information about the CISSS de Laval and the services offered in its facilities, go to www.lavalensante.com.

About the Centre de services scolaire de Laval

With a presence across the entire Laval region, the CSS de Laval is one of the largest education service centres in Québec. It serves close to 57,000 students at the preschool, primary and secondary levels and in vocational training and adult education. The CSS de Laval includes 59 primary schools, 14 secondary schools, 8 professional training centres, 5 adult education centres, one department for companies and professional development and one intake, reference, advice and support department. The CSS de Laval is one of the largest employers in Laval with over 10,000 employees.

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